

Claims

1. A method for treating chronic hepatitis C infections comprising administering PEG-IFN- α conjugate and ribavirin concurrently in amounts effective to treat chronic hepatitis C infection.

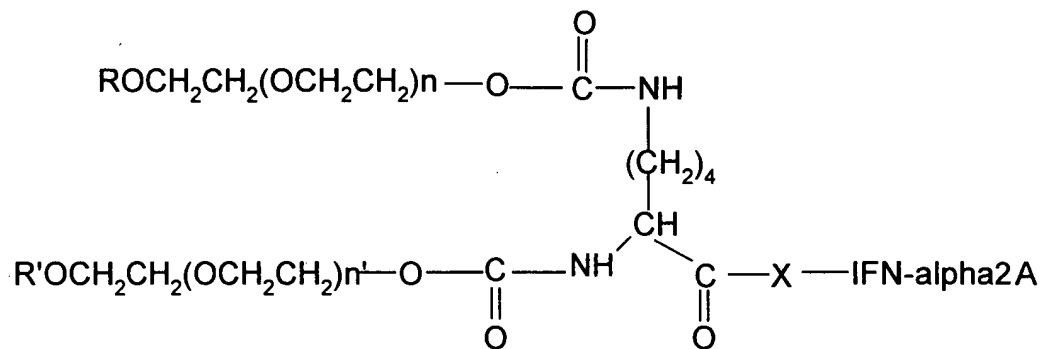
5 2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the PEG-IFN- α conjugate is administered in an amount of about 33 to about 540 mcg per week.

3. The method according to claim 2 wherein the ribavirin is administered in an amount of about 400 to about 1200 mg daily.

10 4. The method according to claim 1 wherein at least one daily dose of ribavirin is administered within the same week as at least one dose of PEG-IFN- α conjugate.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein substantially all of the ribavirin is administered within the same week as at least one dose of PEG-IFN- α conjugate.

15 6. A method for treating chronic hepatitis C infections comprising administering a PEG-IFN- α conjugate having the formula:



where

R and R' are methyl, X is NH, and n and n' are individually or both either 420 or 520,

20 and ribavirin concurrently in amounts effective to treat chronic hepatitis C infection.

7. The method according to claim 6 wherein the PEG-IFN- $\alpha 2\text{A}$ conjugate is administered in an amount of about 33 to about 540 mcg per week.

8. The method according to claim 7 wherein the ribavirin is administered in an amount of about 400 to about 1200 mg daily.

9. The method according to claim 6 wherein at least one daily dose of ribavirin is administered within the same week as at least one dose of the PEG-IFN- α 2A conjugate.

10. The method of claim 6 wherein substantially all of the ribavirin is administered within the same week as at least one dose of PEG-IFN- α conjugate.

11. The method according to claim 8 wherein from about 150 μ g to about 250 μ g of the PEG-IFN- α 2A conjugate is administered once a week for at least one week and from about 800 mg to about 1200 mg of ribavirin is administered daily during the same at least one week the PEG-IFN- α 2A conjugate is administered.

12. The method according to claim 8 wherein about 180 μ g of the PEG-IFN- α 2A conjugate is administered once a week for 48 weeks and from about 400 mg to about 600 mg of ribavirin is administered twice daily during the same 48 weeks the PEG-IFN- α 2A conjugate is administered.
